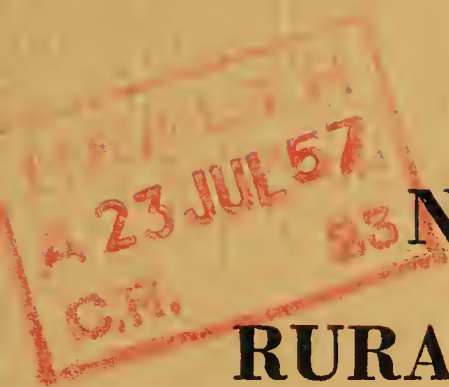


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**NORTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956

LINCOLN :

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NORTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL


ANNUAL REPORT

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NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector for 1956

Chairman : MR. W. E. YOUNG, Branston.

Vice-Chairman : MR. G. W. HUTSON, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

Treasurer : NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, Lincoln.

Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. SHARRARD, The Avenue, Lincoln.

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer : MR. F. FOSTER,

Deputy Financial Officer : MR. T. L. HILL.

Legal Advisers : Messrs. DANBY, EPTONS & GRIFFITH, Solicitors, Lincoln.

*Rating and Valuation Officer & Housing
Tenancy Manager.* MR. A. ELKINGTON,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :
MR. J. FREEMAN, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor : MR. J. B. SMART

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

MR. J. L. McFALL, M.A.P.H.I.

MR. D. J. OWENS, M.A.P.H.I.

MR. R. I. BAIRSTOW, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices:

31 Clasketgate, Lincoln.

Telephone No. 8617.

Surveyors — 10095

Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge,
Metheringham.

Telephone No. 230.

Garage and Store, Sleaford Road,
Metheringham.

Telephone No. 470.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating and Valuation Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	102,178
Population 1956	30,330
1955	28,680
Dwelling houses (including houses with shops).. ..	8,019
Commercial Properties	244
Licensed Premises	64
Entertainment and Recreational	47
Public Utility	40
Educational and Cultural	13
Industrial	36
Miscellaneous.. ..	207
Total number of hereditaments.	8,670
Rateable Value of District	£270,715 (127,361)
Penny Rate Product.. ..	£1,016 (510)

Council Tenancies.

Permanent houses and bungalows..	..	..	..	1,565
Aluminium bungalows	..	..	..	60
Temporary hutments	..	..	..	10
Total	..	..	..	1,635

"The statistics relating to dwelling houses, other rateable hereditaments, rateable value, and penny rate product, are the result of the operation of the new Valuation List from the 1st April, 1956, and in some cases, bear no relation to the statistics contained in the 1955 Annual Report. The large increase in rateable value from £215,209 (on 1-4-56) to £270,715 is mainly due to the revised valuations of property in the occupation of the Crown, which were not completed between the Rating and Valuation Officer and the Treasury Valuer until October, 1956".

The usual agricultural pursuits were carried on in the District. There are also crop-drying and flax manufacture, an egg-packing station, brick-making kilns, aircraft repair works, sewage works for Lincoln City, a light engineering factory, stone quarries and sand and gravel quarries, road car depots and garages, warehouse-distributors (S.P.D.), a clothing factory, and, last but not least, the Malleable Iron Works. Food manufacture in a fairly large way is also carried on at the new N.A.A.F.I., Bakery at North Hykeham.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	455	238	217	Birth Rate 15·47 (16·97) E. & W. 15·7
Illegitimate	19	11	8	
Still Births—Legitimate	15	8	7	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	2	2	0	Total Births 34·6 (34·9)
Deaths	423	209	214	Death Rate 11·02 (13·05) E. & W. 11·7
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	...	...	...	from sepsis 0 from other causes 1
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—	Total 8	M. 1	F. 7	
Legitimate		1	5	
Illegitimate		0	2	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—	Total 12	M. 5	F. 7	
Legitimate		5	5	
Illegitimate		0	2	
Comparability Factors—	Births ·99	Deaths ·79		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—	Total 25·06 (26·9)			E. & W. 23·8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia was accountable for 3·3% of the deaths. Cancer	12·06% (10·3)			
almost 1 in 4 cancer of lung or bronchus.				

Heart Disease 43.9% (39.1)	Coronary Disease Angina 15.9%
Tuberculosis, respiratory, .72% (1.9)	Influenza .2
Cancer of Lung 2.84% (1.1)	Strokes, etc. 10.6% (13.8)

Infantile mortality is again just above that for England and Wales, which happened to be the lowest ever recorded in this country, which at 23.8 per 1,000 births compares with 24.9 in 1955, 25.5 in 1954 and 52.8 in 1938, a wonderful drop of over 55% in 18 years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA

As in previous years all the various components of the Health Service have been fully used. We have had a few more beds in most departments but the demand seems insatiable. Whereas the demand for more beds for geriatrics is increasing, there may be a slight counter-balancing in demand as the success of the struggle against tuberculosis is more and more assured.

There is and will be for some years at least severe strain on the Dental Profession. There is, however, definite hope that the help of Ancillaries will be forthcoming in the not too distant future. Moreover one is delighted to learn that the Dental Schools are getting a much fuller quota of students, which again should reduce the strain in, say, five years time.

In Britain there is only one dentist to 3,273 of the population which is about half of the proportion in the U.S.A. and five-eighths of that in Norway, a by no means wealthy country. Moreover in the next ten years we shall lose a net 2,000 dentists from the Register (or about 13%). Hence we may even have to consider general "fluoridisation" of our water supplies to cut down on the work entailed by Dental Caries.

The Ambulance Service is a boon to a scattered community and has come to be expected as of right. The honourable use of this service must ever be kept before the community to avoid wasteful expenditure.

The steadily increasing expected span of life brought about by the exhibition of the sulphur and anti-biotic life saving drugs is posing more and more problems. The old adage "get them up, get them out and keep them interested" is of prime importance for the well-being of the aged sick and not-so-sick. Probably the most potent factor in the well being of the aged is, like that of the young, to feel the security of being one of a happy family. In this we might well learn from the Chinese attitude thereto.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Inspection of Meat

In the area there are 12 licenced slaughterhouses.

The following is a tabular statement for the post-mortem inspection of animals:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1430	180	20	2572	3829	121
Number inspected	1430	180	20	2572	3829	121
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerchi						
Whole carcases condemned	11	17	6	25	13	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	298	46	Nil	54	120	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerchi	21.61%	35%	30%	3.07%	3.47%	14.88%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	8	13	Nil	Nil	8	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	144	42	Nil	Nil	160	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.63%	36.11%	Nil	Nil	4.39%	Nil
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Weight of Meat Condemned.

	Carcase Meat			Offal		
	tons	cwts.	lbs.	tons	cwts.	lbs.
Bovine	10	11	28	—	19	17
Sheep	—	8	26	—	2	30
Pigs	2	15	29	—	9	110
Horses		Nil		—	2	7
Total:	13	14	83	1	13	52

Food Premises

- (i) The following is a tabular statement of the type of food premises in the area.

Restaurants and Cafes	Butchers	Grocers and Confectioners	Fish & Chip Fryers	Bakehouses	Fruiterers	Licensed Premises
14	22	100	13	9	2	67

112 inspections of the above premises were made during the year.

- (ii) **Food Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**

Sale of Ice-Cream	Manufacture of Meat Products	Fish and Chip Fryers
89	22	13

135 inspections of the above premises were made during the year.

- (iii) **Disposal of Condemned Meat**

This is taken to a Knackers Yard in the district for processing into pet food and fertilisers.

- (iv) **Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947-52**

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district and all ice-cream is sold retail in wrappers or in carton containers.

- (v) **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56**

A campaign under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56, was commenced and some progress was made and it is anticipated that the following year will show that substantial results have been achieved.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1035
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	358
Housing Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	814
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections on Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	373
Inspections under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Housing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Sewer Dykes	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Chlorinators	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
Visits to Council Houses <i>re</i> Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2325
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Buildings in course of Erection	...	...	...	...	...	...	1110
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Visits to Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	873
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Visits <i>re</i> Connections to Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Garage and Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Pumping Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	250

Housing

In carrying out their duties under the Housing Acts in respect of unfit houses, investigating applications for Improvement Grants and supervising the subsequent work your Public Health Inspectors made 820 visits. The following gives brief details of the outcome of this work:—

(a) Slum Clearance

During 1956, 120 houses were reported to the Council under Section II, Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense. Of these 120 houses, Demolition Orders were made in 34 cases, Closing Orders in 32 cases, 3 undertakings were accepted by the Council and 51 remained to be finally dealt with at the end of the year, 3 demolition orders and 2 closing orders were made in respect of houses first dealt with before 1956.

3 houses were demolished, 9 made fit and 10 families displaced from unfit houses as a result of action under Section II.

10 houses were reported as being unfit pursuant to Section 25, Housing Act, 1936 and were included in clearance areas. The houses and land have been acquired by the Council and will be used ultimately for new housing development.

13 Preliminary notices were served during the year and 5 were complied with without formal notices being served; 8 Statutory notices have been served and 5 have been complied with.

(b) Improvement Grants

During the year the Council approved applications for Improvement Grants under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949 in respect of 42 dwellings, the amount of grants involved being £11,193 10s. 0d. 38 dwellings were improved and brought up to the standard required by the Act.

(c) New Housing

Since the end of the war and up to the end of the year the Council had had tenders approved for the erection of 1,033 permanent houses, 995 houses had been completed, and of these 62 houses were completed during the year. At the end of the year 18 houses were under construction. 99 houses were completed by private builders during the year, making a total of 507 since the war. 95 private dwellings were under construction at the year end.

Water Supply

All parishes have a piped water supply. Bracebridge Heath, Canwick, North Hykeham, South Hykeham, Skellingthorpe and part of Waddington are supplied by Lincoln Corporation. Potterhanworth has its own local supply, and the remaining parishes are supplied from the Council's source at Dunston. Details of the supply are given below:—

				<i>Direct Services</i>		<i>Pillar Fountains</i>	
				<i>No. of Properties served</i>	<i>Popl'n served</i>	<i>No. of Properties served</i>	<i>Popl'n served</i>
Aubourn, Haddington and South							
Hykeham	...	...	...	171	580	19	63
Bassingham	...	...	...	147	529	7	22
Beckingham	...	...	...	55	192	26	84
Boothby Graffoe	...	...	...	42	142	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	...	...	...	526	3153	—	—
Branston and Mere	...	...	...	469	1620	74	244
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe				153	518	19	77
Canwick	...	...	...	70	239	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland		...	...	54	173	11	40
Coleby	...	...	...	104	380	18	63
Doddington and Whisby	...	...	...	77	269	—	—
Dunston	...	...	...	82	281	47	163
Eagle and Swinethorpe	...	...	...	105	420	—	—
Harmston	...	...	...	62	584	19	54
Heighington	...	...	...	224	748	34	118
Leadenham	...	...	...	137	464	3	14
Metheringham	...	...	...	296	1065	117	403
Navenby (includes Skinnand)	...		...	148	517	37	126
Nocton	...	...	...	84	724	8	28
North Hykeham	...	...	...	1012	3255	—	—
North Scarle	...	...	...	51	176	—	—
Norton Disney	...	...	...	38	137	9	31
Potterhanworth	...	...	...	88	307	18	57
Skellingthorpe	...	...	...	533	2022	—	—
Stapleford	...	...	...	21	73	16	55
Swinderby	...	...	...	90	1838	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)				97	697	—	—
Thurlby	...	...	...	18	67	6	24
Waddington	...	...	...	380	2505	90	301
Washingborough	...	...	...	272	817	53	158
Welbourn	...	...	...	214	380	24	75
Wellingore	...	...	...	133	559	19	60

Samples taken from Public Supplies in 1956

Samples have been taken at the sources of supply at Dunston and Potterhanworth weekly, and in every case the samples of raw water have been satisfactory. Weekly samples have been taken at the source after chlorination, the only treatment given to the water, and, here again, all samples have been satisfactory.

As a check against possible contamination in the mains between source and consumer, samples have been taken weekly at different points throughout the district. Usually these samples have been taken at taps in houses, and in the majority of cases they were satisfactory. In some cases, however, unsatisfactory reports on samples were received but, in every case, a further sample, taken immediately on receipt of the bad report, proved to be satisfactory. This showed that the water had been subject to local contamination, probably from the tap.

Details of the numbers of samples are given below:—

<i>Nature of Sample</i>				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	TOTAL
Chemical	...	...	...	1	—	1
Bacteriological	...	...	...	281	5	286

Scavenging

Refuse is collected in all our Parishes : partly by direct labour and partly by contract.

Cesspools to private houses are emptied free at intervals of not less than twelve months. At other times, and in the case of premises, other than private houses, a charge of 30s. is made.

Privy pail closets are emptied free in the parishes of North Hykeham and Waddington. Privy vaults are emptied at a charge according to the time taken .

Sewerage Schemes

During the year the sewerage scheme for Branston, Heighington and Washingborough was commenced and the work has made good progress. No further progress was made during the year on the scheme for Metherringham. An engineering inspector of the Minister of Housing and Local Government held an informal inquiry into the scheme for Brant Broughton.

In North Hykeham and Waddington a total of 794 house drains were connected to the sewer by the end of the year.

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1956)

			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
			M.	F.			
					M	F.	
Totals	...	...	7	11	...	3	3
Deaths	...	...	2	1	...	0	0

DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	—
Pneumonia	6	5	14
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—
Erysipelas	8	4	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis—Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	28	3	—
Dysentery	3	1	—
Malaria (R)	—	—	—
Hepatitis Infective	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—

GENERAL REMARKS

Diphtheria

We again have a nil return. This is most gratifying. But we must still keep in our minds the one great fact that immunisation against Diphtheria must be kept up amongst children under 1 year of age, at any rate to the extent of 75% of all such children. I make no excuse for re-iterating this warning.

Polio-Myelitis

Polio-Myelitis did not trouble us in the last year, and the advent of a reliable vaccine has been the answer to every public health officer's prayer.

Tuberculosis

This is still quite a problem. Because there has been a marked improvement in the statistical position there must be no let up in the fight against this very old enemy. There is no ground for complacency when we realise that our deaths are proportionately worse than the small countries of Denmark and the Netherlands. Better housing and more still, better feeding and enlightenment and mass Radiography are contributing strongly to the success of the campaign.

Cancer

This dread disease is ever before our minds. If by any means whatever we can ameliorate conditions which could cause or aggravate it, it is our bounden duty to do so. The recent report by the Medical Research Council has been accepted by the Government. This report states that a major part of the great increase in the deaths from lung cancer among men during the past 25 years has been due to smoking tobacco, particularly heavy cigarette smoking.

A very great increase has occurred during the past 25 years in the death rate from cancer of the lung in both Great Britain and other countries. Thus in 1955 the death rate therefrom reached a level more than double that recorded 10 years earlier (388 per million population against 188). **Amongst males 1 in 18 of all deaths are from this disease**; and 1 in 103 amongst females, with considerable recent increase. Moreover only a small part of the rise can be attributed to the larger numbers of older persons now living in the population. In the last ten years the lung cancer death rates among both men and women have risen **at all ages from early middle life onwards**.

The evidence is derived from two types of special inquiry. First, victims of lung cancer have been interviewed and their previous history in relation to smoking and other factors that might be relevant have been compared with those similarly obtained from patients without lung cancer. The results of nineteen such enquiries in Great Britain, U.S.A., Finland, Germany, Holland, Norway and Switzerland have been published. These agree in showing more smokers amongst patients with lung cancer and a steady rising mortality as the amount of smoking increases.

In the second type of enquiry information has been obtained of the smoking habits of each member of a defined group of the population and the causes of death occurring subsequently in this group have been ascertained. In the U.S.A. 190,000 men aged 50-69, and in Great Britain 40,000 Doctors in the 1951 Medical Register were the "guinea pigs". The results have been essentially the same. The result showed higher mortality in heavy smokers, cigarette smokers, and those who continued to smoke, than in those who gave it up.

As it has been known for some years that mortality from lung cancer is greater in urban than rural areas it has been thought by some that air pollution by coal smoke and vehicle exhausts might be concerned with lung cancer. But no excess mortality has been observed in persons such as garage hands, policemen and transport workers who by their work are specially exposed to atmospheric pollution. On balance it is possible that such pollution plays some part in causing the disease, but a relatively minor one in comparison with cigarette smoking.

Our knowledge is incomplete. Many factors other than smoking can no doubt produce this disease. The evidence against smoking has been mounting during the last 8-10 years. It is up to us on the facts available to decide **to smoke or not to smoke**—and to the scientist to continue his investigations so that the undoubted pleasures of smoking need not be so insistently denied to lovers of the fragrant weed.

Accidents

Again I wish to draw the Council's attention to the continued loss of life through accidents both as a result of motor vehicles and transport and in and around the home and at work. Our figures show 4.02% of the total deaths due to accidents of all kinds and 1.65% due to motor vehicle and 2.37% to all other accidents. Cars get faster and faster every year and the widening of a country road by only a few feet can mean an increase of

several miles an hour in the average speed of motor vehicles thereon. In this respect two words spell safety, **courtesy** and **consideration** followed at a respectable distance by **good driving** and **good brakes**.

Caravans

Though the numbers of these compared with our total dwellings is numerically small I would stress that there must be constant and adequate supervision of such dwellings. One must not deny the right of a home for anyone desiring this type but they are not suitable for the adequate upbringing of a family and the rather flimsy construction of some could be a trial in a severe Lincolnshire winter.

Water

In all our pre-occupation with disease, its causation and control, we must not forget what is now taken for granted in our district—a wholesome general supply of water piped to every village. We are indeed happy in this respect, and, even if, at times, certain areas have some slight difficulties in supply, deep thankfulness should be our prevailing thought for this great blessing.

Sewage

It has often been said that provision of a pure water supply inevitably entails sewerage systems to follow. We are at any rate striving to fulfil that inevitability, and North Hykeham, Waddington, Branston, Heighington and Washingborough are well on to final success therein.

Housing

In this we are keeping up a long-continued effort to keep this Rural District in the forefront in pursuit of the amenities of high quality so commonly attributed to a town or city.

Slum clearance has been persevered with as over the last 30 or more years; and a steady improvement of border line property or condemnation of such as are beyond repair at reasonable expense has been carried out by your staff; all of which raises the standard of living in your area.

Finally since the end of the war to the end of 1956 995 houses out of 1033 permanent houses for which tenders had been approved, were completed by the Council, a truly gratifying figure. To balance the picture as it were 507 houses were completed by private builders since the war, of which 99 were completed during the past year.

For all this progress one has to thank the far-sightedness and interest of a go-ahead council, and the happy team spirit amongst an untiring staff to whom I heartily tender my thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD.

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.		M.	F.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	1	19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	10
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	0	0	20 Other heart disease ...	35	72
3 Syphilitic disease ...	2	0	21 Other circulatory disease	9	9
4 Diphtheria ...	0	0	22 Influenza ...	1	0
5 Whooping cough ...	0	0	22 Pneumonia ...	7	7
6 Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	24 Bronchitis ...	4	5
7 Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0	25 Other diseases of res- piratory system ...	1	1
8 Measles ...	0	0	26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	0	27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	0	2
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	6	28 Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	10	2	29 Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	2	30 *Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	1
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus... ..	0	2	31 Congenital malforma- tions	2	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	9	32 Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	18	34
15 Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	0	33 Motor vehicle accidents	7	0
16 Diabetes ...	1	2	34 All other accidents ...	6	4
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	25	20	35 Suicide... ..	2	0
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	46	21	36 Homicide and opera- tions of war... ..	0	0
			All causes ...	209	214

* Due to pulmonary embolism after caesarian section.

